

**Summary – New Beginnings: The Need for Supportive Housing for Previously Incarcerated People. (Elizabeth Heger)**

1. **Please describe the goal of the project/program found in the article/report?**

The main goal of the program in this article was to tell about the need for housing, combined with supportive services for those individuals exiting the jail system. Research shows that those leaving the jail system with affordable housing are more likely to stay out jail, thereby saving thousands of dollars per year/per person. The article is based on those living in New York. The article gives information about programs already in operation and also provides a listing of programs in operation around the United States.

2. **What were the key points?**

Several key points in this article:

- A) Funding is very scarce, if not almost no-existent, for programs that provide or want to develop supportive housing for ex-offenders re-entering society.
- B) It seems to be that if programs target specific needs of an ex-offender, funding can be found. For example, if you have a program that is targeted towards mental health issues, some funding streams will be more flexible in allowing the program to target "ex-offenders with mental issues" rather than just having a program for "ex-offenders."
- C) There are several things that affect the outcome of an individual re-entering society such as a support system, educational level, housing, mental health issues and ability to find employment.
- D) Congress, over the past few years, has been dealing with various bills regarding ex-offenders, such as the Prisoner Re-Entry Bill.
- E) Non-Violent offenders have some options when re-entering society, which are called pre-trial diversions and incarceration benefits. These are like community sanctions.

3. **Is this a proposal or an existing project/program? If the project/program was completed, what were the outcomes? If it is a proposal, what are the expected outcomes?**

The article is more of a information piece about programs that are currently working in New York City and some of the obstacles that this population is facing when re-entering society. At this time, the cities that do have supportive housing programs have proven to reduce recidivism rates. For example, the article mentions that in Chicago, there are 2 transitional housing facilities for ex-offenders and "the recidivism rate is only 20% compared to the recidivism rate of 50% for the general population leaving the Illinois prisons."

**4. Who was involved and how did they meet the project goals?**

The article focused on the obstacles agencies assisting the ex-offender population faces and what is currently working.

**5. How was it funded? How much did it cost? Didn't specify.**

**6. Any pertinent statistics found?**

There were a lot of statistics given about the ex-offender population at the beginning of the article. Some of the ones I found to be interesting were:

- A) 70% - 85% of state prisoners are in need of drug treatment, however, only 13% receive it while incarcerated;
- B) In New York City, nearly 75% of the inmates released from Rikers Island jail return within one year;
- C) CA Department of Corrections reports that 30% - 50% of all parolees are homeless;
- D) 65% of employers in major US Cities said they would not knowingly hire an ex-offender regardless of his or her offense.

**7. Any unique approaches to ending homelessness identified?**

Unfortunately not. They talk a lot about the various needs this population has when re-entering society. However, many of the needs mentioned, such as education, job training, etc. are things we see with the entire homeless population we serve.

**8. Any questions raised by this plan?**

No. It just stressed the importance of assisting this population with the necessary supportive services needed to prevent them being jailed.

**9. Potential goals to include in the matrix?**

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